



**MARA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (UiTM)
SARAWAK**

**PROBLEMS IN SPEAKING ENGLISH
LANGUAGE AND LEARNING STRATEGIES
EMPLOYED IN COPING
WITH THE HESITANCY: A CASE
STUDY OF FIRST SEMESTER
STUDENTS AT MARA
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (UiTM)
SARAWAK**

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Candidate's Declaration

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In the event that my thesis be found to violate the conditions mentioned above, I voluntarily waive the right of conferment of my degree and agree to be subjected to the disciplinary rules and regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA.


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ABSTRACT

It has been acknowledged that English is the second most important language learned in schools in Malaysia. In academics, oral communication skills not only provide opportunities for students to practise and develop important communicative skills; these skills are also widely conversed in the attempt of improving themselves in the language. In higher education, these second language learners still face problems in the language mastery. Thus, the purpose of this study was to investigate the problems pertaining learning English language and the learning strategies used as resolutions to reach the target goal by 134 first semester students at MARA University of Technology (UiTM) Sarawak. The study employed a survey design which involved administering questionnaires of five-point Likert scales ranging from 1 – 5, by adopting Rebecca Oxford's (1990) Strategy Inventory for Language Learning (SILL). Semi-constructed interview was also conducted to gain an in-depth understanding of the problems and the suitable learning strategies used by the students. The study revealed that the major problems faced by these students are; the lack of vocabulary, the low understanding of grammatical structure, confusion in using the correct usage of words, wrong pronunciation, the lack of confidence and less exposure to the English language. It was reported that cognitive strategies were the most frequently used. These strategies include manipulation or transformation of the language through reasoning, analysis, note taking, functional practice in naturalistic setting, as well as formal practice with structures and sounds.

Keywords: English Language Problems and Learning Strategies

ABSTRAK

Bahasa Inggeris merupakan bahasa kedua yang paling penting dipelajari di Malaysia. Dalam akademik, kemahiran komunikasi lisan bukan sahaja memberi peluang kepada pelajar mengamalkan dan mengembangkan kemahiran komunikasi; malah membantu di dalam usaha peningkatan diri mereka dalam penggunaan Bahasa Inggeris. Di institut pendidikan tinggi, pelajar masih menghadapi masalah dalam penguasaan bahasa tersebut. Oleh itu, kajian dijalankan bertujuan untuk menyiasat permasalahan berkaitan pembelajaran Bahasa Inggeris dan strategi pembelajaran yang digunakan sebagai resolusi untuk mencapai matlamat target di kalangan 134 mahasiswa semester pertama di Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Sarawak. Penelitian ini menggunakan rekabentuk tinjauan yang melibatkan senarai soalan lima-mata Skala Likert 1 - 5, berdasarkan Strategy Inventory for Language Learning (SILL) oleh Rebecca Oxford (1990). Temubual separa-struktur juga dijalankan untuk mendapat pemahaman yang mendalam terhadap permasalahan dan penggunaan strategi pembelajaran yang sesuai. Keputusan kajian menunjukkan para pelajar menghadapi; kurang kosa kata, pemahaman struktur tatabahasa yang rendah, kekeliruan dalam penggunaan perkataan yang betul, kurang keyakinan diri dan kurang pendedahan terhadap Bahasa Inggeris. Strategi kognitif sering digunakan yang merangkumi manipulasi atau transformasi bahasa melalui penalaran, penganalisan, pencatatan, pengamalan fungsi dalam ketetapan naturalistik, serta pengamalan formal dengan struktur dan suara.

Kata kunci: Permasalahan Bahasa Inggeris dan Strategi Belajar